



MEETING SUMMARY

Comprehensive Transportation Plan Transportation Steering Committee Meeting

April 23, 2014

Presentation of Existing Conditions

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Briarwood Recreation Center, 2235 Briarwood Way NE, Brookhaven, GA 30319

A Transportation Steering Committee meeting for the City of Brookhaven's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) was held on April 23, 2014 at 4:00 PM at Briarwood Recreation Center. Key City officials, the Transportation Steering Committee members, and project team members attended the meeting.

Name	Role
Joe Palladi	CTP Steering Committee Chair
Jennifer Harper	CTP Steering Committee Member
Denise Starling	CTP Steering Committee Member
Richard Meehan	City of Brookhaven – Staff Liaison/Director of Public Works
Jamie Cochran	Project Manager – GS&P
Nithin Gomez	Traffic Engineer – GS&P
Megha Young	Transportation Planner – GS&P

Welcome, Introductions and Overview

Richard Meehan, Director of Public Works, and Jamie Cochran, Project Manager for the Gresham, Smith and Partners (GS&P) consultant team, welcomed the group. Ms. Cochran introduced two members of the project team, Nithin Gomez and Megha Young.

Project Status Report and Updates

Ms. Cochran gave an update on the project activities since the last Steering Committee meeting, including the work done to date. She presented the final schedule for all meetings pertaining to the CTP, which include Steering Committee meetings, Joint Steering Committee meetings, interactive open houses, and presentations to the City Council. Ms. Cochran then summarized the Public Outreach Program, which consists of ongoing solicitation of input via online surveys and social media, and specific public events and notices (open houses, Steering Committee meetings open to the public, press releases, news articles, and presentations to City Council).



Finally, Ms. Cochran summarized the CTP Process, explaining that the CTP is currently in its first phase, “Assess Existing Transportation Conditions.” The next steps are to “Assess Future Transportation Conditions” (May 2014), complete a “Needs Assessment and Improvement Options” (May and June 2014), and “Develop Document Plan including Implementation” (July 2014).

Presentation of Draft Goals

Ms. Cochran presented a draft list of goals for the CTP. She recognized that the goals for a CTP are typically derived from the Comprehensive Plan; however, since the City’s Comprehensive Plan (in development) has not yet specified goals, she explained that due to time constraints, the CTP would adopt a set of goals now to guide the development of the Plan. The draft CTP goals are focused around Safety, Mobility and Access, Public Health, and Sustainability. Ms. Cochran requested that the Steering Committee suggest any additions, omissions, or edits they would like to see for the goals. Ms. Harper suggested that the last goal on Sustainability have more direct language on the importance of economic competitiveness for the City’s future.

Presentation of Existing Conditions

Ms. Cochran, Mr. Gomez, and Ms. Young gave a presentation on Existing Conditions in the City of Brookhaven (pertaining to the transportation system). This discussion on Existing Conditions included information on:

- Demographics
- Highway and Street Functional Classifications, and the upcoming Functional Class Review (led by GDOT and ARC)
- Level-of-Service (LOS)
- Crash Data
- Pedestrian and Vehicular Fatalities
- Pedestrian Injuries
- Transit Systems
- Active Transportation System (Sidewalks)
- Transportation Demand Management Programs
- Planned and Programmed Projects (from ARC’s Plan 2040)
- Draft Recommended Projects from the DeKalb CTP

Re-Cap of Brainstorming Session

Ms. Cochran presented a summary of results from the previous Steering Committee meeting’s brainstorming session. During that session, committee members identified transportation elements that the City needs to improve, and identified new transportation features needed. They



also identified the areas within Brookhaven where transportation improvements are needed most. The paper maps created during the brainstorming session were made into electronic maps with GIS software. Ms. Cochran presented these maps, which were categorized by specific issues or opportunities:

- Intersection Issues
- Safety Issues
- Key Places to Connect
- Cut-Through Traffic Issues
- Road Segment Problems
- Access Management Problems
- New Active Transportation Opportunities
- New Transit Opportunities

Ms. Cochran asked, given the work from the last meeting and the new data and information presented at the current meeting, whether there were any additional transportation opportunities or priorities that should be considered for the CTP.

Next Steps

Ms. Cochran highlighted the next steps for the CTP, which include:

- Incorporating emerging work from the Comprehensive Plan, the Parks and Recreation Plan, and the Buford Corridor Improvement Economic Strategy Plan;
- Completing future traffic projections for key corridors;
- Completing the Future Conditions and Needs Assessment reports;
- Preparing on-line surveys to engage citizens and stakeholders; and
- Preparing informational materials/displays for the Open House (planned for May 28, 2014)

Homework

Ms. Cochran asked the Steering Committee members to read two reports that provide interesting insights on transportation system planning, and think about their applications to the City of Brookhaven.

- “Infrastructure 2014: Shaping the Competitive City” by the Urban Land Institute (ULI)
- “Great Corridors, Great Communities” by the Project for Public Spaces, Inc.

These reports are available on the City’s website.



Ms. Cochran also asked the Steering Committee members to review the proposed projects (within Brookhaven) from the DeKalb CTP and provide feedback (positive or negative) at the next meeting.

Discussions

During the presentations and following the meeting, Steering Committee members and a member of the public in attendance engaged in the following discussions.

A. Are any of the Steering Committee members from Huntley Hills neighborhood? On the brainstorming sessions maps, that area seems to be underrepresented in response.

- Ms. Cochran and Mr. Meehan responded that they would find out this information.

B. Does the City have funding for these proposed transportation projects?

- City officials are in the process of determining the City's sustainable revenue stream. The bulk of the first two years of the City's budget is focused on the City's start-up costs. In years three through five, more of the general fund can be allocated to capital and long-term maintenance projects. The Public Works Department will be "competing" with the Police Department and Parks and Recreation Department for funds. The total budget will be about \$25 million by year 3. \$3.5 million of this money are host funds from DeKalb County. The host funds are required to be spent on capital projects – this includes transportation projects, but can also include vehicles, equipment for the Police Department, and other such items.
- State Roads in Brookhaven are eligible for federal and state funds.
- ARC is sponsoring improvements on Regional Traffic Operations Program (RTOP) corridors such as Peachtree Road. There is also funding for Perimeter Transportation Operations Program (PTOP) corridor improvements from the Perimeter CID to Peachtree Road in Brookhaven. Some funding sources will require the City to provide local matching funds. For example, the Peachtree LCI streetscape improvements require an 80/20 match. The Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) improvements (sponsored by ARC) require either an 80/20 or 90/10 match.
- There are other funding sources available for transit projects. Livable Center Area (LCI) improvements, and trails.



- The consultant team will include information on sources of funds in the CTP document.

C. There are a number of plans and studies that have been done for the Brookhaven area. Which studies are being embraced or adopted by the City?

- The Brookhaven-Peachtree Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Study recommended an overlay district with specific design standards. The City has adopted this overlay district into its Zoning Ordinance with a few minor changes. The LCI Study itself has not been formally adopted, but the City recognizes the study and its recommendations. A Steering Committee member noted that the City should formally adopt the LCI Study if it has not already done so; the LCI Study must be updated every five years, and if the City has not adopted the study, then it will not be eligible to receive funds for LCI improvements. Adopting the LCI Study also allows the City to change project priorities as needed.
- The City officially recognizes and embraces recommendations from the Perimeter CID.
- The Brookhaven-Oglethorpe MARTA Station Transit Oriented Development Charrette made a number of recommendations, including changing turning movement patterns on Peachtree Road, Dresden Drive, and North Druid Hills Road. The City has not adopted the recommendations of the study, as some of the recommendations are very specific and may be inconsistent or conflict with the City's zoning, land use, or other policies.
- The City chose not to adopt the DeKalb CTP, as officials knew that the Brookhaven CTP would be developed in the near future. A Steering Committee member noted that nonetheless, the Brookhaven CTP's recommendations should be consistent with those of DeKalb.
- The project team should ensure that the Brookhaven CTP is consistent with recommendations from the Sandy Springs, Chamblee, and Dunwoody CTPs, particularly with regards to bike-ped facilities at the borders of Brookhaven.
- There should be further discussion with City officials regarding which studies and plans are officially adopted and which are considered as creative potential ideas.



D. Is the CTP considering plans for the Atlanta Streetcar in the Lenox Road area?

- These are long-term plans, much further out in the future. The City of Atlanta received financing for the streetcar line along Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Much of the streetcar plan was developed with the assumption that it would be financed by the private sector; after the economic downturn, however, there has not been much private sector interest in an expanded streetcar system.

E. The CTP goals should specifically mention economic competitiveness (which is driven by transportation policies). The City needs to have a goal of attracting quality business opportunities, such as good restaurants, good retail establishments, etc.

- The project team noted this comment for edit of the draft goals.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on May 29, 2014 in conjunction with the Interactive Open House. The time and location will be announced via e-mail.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.